

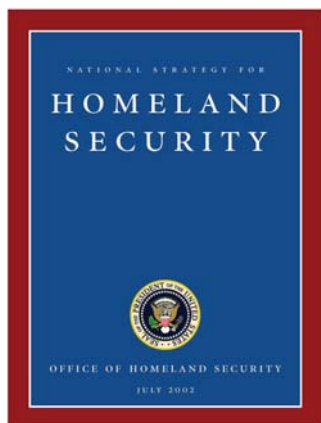
## Preparedness and Planning

### States, Ontario Sign Health Records Pact

Several Great Lakes states and Ontario signed an agreement that will allow more efficient communication of health records and information. On October 19, Janet Olszewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, signed the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative's (GLBHI) Public Health Data Sharing Agreement and Infectious Disease Emergency Communication Guideline. Since the outbreak of SARS in 2003, the Center for Disease Control has worked to better establish a line of international communication between the United States and Canada. The creation of the GLBHI was a way to keep secure private data while creating a better way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Please visit the [GLBHI website](#) today!

### White House Revises National Strategies

On October 9, the White House issued a revised version of its National Strategy for Homeland Security, first issued in 2002. The revised strategy acknowledges that certain non-terrorist events that reach catastrophic levels can have significant implications for homeland security and emphasizes offensive measures at home and abroad. On October 18, the White House released [Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21](#) (HSPD 21) establishing a [National Strategy for Public Health and Medical Preparedness](#). HSPD 21 builds upon "key principles" from previous White House releases including the [National Strategy for Homeland Security](#) (2007), the [National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction](#) (2002), and [Biodefense for the 21st Century](#).



### HHS Invests \$55 Million in Bioterrorism Countermeasures

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is [investing](#) \$55.3 million in four companies that are developing advanced ways of combating anthrax, plague and tularemia. The funding for the new contracts, which went to Nanotherapeutics Inc., Elusys Therapeutics Inc., Emergent Biosolutions, and PharmAthene Inc. comes from HHS' new Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority and the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institute of Health.

### GAO Assesses Transportation Security

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) this week issued reports on [aviation security](#), [transportation security](#), and, one year after passage of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act, [maritime security](#). The GAO noted progress as well as challenges that remain.

## News

### OPHP / MPCA Form Partnership

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) and the Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) have formed an emergency preparedness partnership. See [page 3](#) for full details of the planned collaborations.

### MRSA Cases Continue to Rise

There have been many suspected cases of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the state, particularly related to student athletes. As of October 24, Michigan had 15 confirmed cases of MRSA. A recent article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* attempts to model MRSA trends. See [page 4](#) for more information.

### ICS300 and ICS400 for free!

The University of Michigan's Center for Public Health Preparedness is providing scholarships for public health professionals to attend ICS 300 and ICS 400 training sessions offered by the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. See [page 7](#) for more details.

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### **Lessons Learned from Tragedy at Virginia Tech**

The special issue of *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* dedicated to lessons learned from the tragedy at Virginia Tech University is now [available online](#). Articles in the special issue explore a variety of topics about the Virginia Tech tragedy ranging from regional health system response, security on college campuses, and ethical and legal considerations.

### **Project Safe EV-AC**

The international Center for Disability Information at West Virginia University recently completed a series of training materials to improve the success rate of evacuating people with disabilities. Thanks to funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Project Safe EV-AC is disseminating these free materials for use in training, distribution and other work related activities. Visit [their website](#) for more information and/or to download materials.

### **Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness**

The Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) collaborative is pleased to announce a new partnership between LLIS.gov and the Chemical Stockpile



Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). LLIS.gov is working closely with CSEPP experts to identify and collate essential resources and lessons learned. The new CSEPP Resource Page presents planners with a collection of CSEPP-

related plans, after-action reports, and studies. To access the CSEPP Resource Page, please log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on "Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program" under LLIS Partners. LLIS.gov is a members' only website.

### **New FEMA System Coordinates Nationwide Disaster Response**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's new [Emergency Management Information Management System](#) will be a single repository for disaster information. It will give emergency response leaders a wide-angle view of what is happening during a national crisis and is based on commercial software.

### **Airport Screeners Miss Most Fake Bombs in Tests**

Security screeners at two of the nation's busiest airports, Los Angeles International and Chicago O'Hare, failed to find fake bombs hidden on undercover agents posing as passengers in more than 60% of tests last year, according to a [classified report](#) obtained by USA Today. San Francisco International Airport screeners, who work for a private company instead of the Transportation Security Administration, missed about 20% of the bombs.

### **The Hospital Incident Command System – No Longer HEICS**

The [professional guidelines](#) developed to help the nation's hospitals cope with a broad spectrum of emergencies have been so successful and so well-received that they have been expanded, revised, and refined to encompass non-emergency situations as well.

### **Public Health Emergencies, Liability, and Immunity Article**

This article addresses the concerns of healthcare providers regarding liability arising from emergency response activities. The article reviews theories of liability that might be used by plaintiffs and the sources of immunity that are currently available to public health emergency responders. Finally, the author makes recommendations for statutory reforms to remedy what she has found to be a "piecemeal and deficient liability protection system." The article is [available online](#).

## Successful Collaboration

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) and the Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) have formed an emergency preparedness partnership. OPHP is providing Michigan Health Alert Network accounts and training so that members from federally qualified health clinics, and community health clinics will have alerting capabilities. OPHP and MPCA are collaborating to provide a two-day training (October 25-26, 2007) on emergency preparedness. Participants will become familiar with the state and local public health, and hospital emergency preparedness structures. At the conclusion of the two-day training, participants will have the knowledge, tools, and resources to develop a comprehensive community health center emergency response plan. MPCA's members provide healthcare services for over 462,000 of Michigan's underserved populations, such as migrant workers and homeless persons.

Another collaborative training with MPCA is the "Communicating in a Crisis", a three-part conference call series. On September 26, over 30 members of the Michigan Primary Care Association Marketing and Public Relations Network, became more familiar with public health crisis and emergency risk communication procedures. On October 10, they heard about the Regional Bioterrorism Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator roles. On November 14 the conference call series will conclude with information on the incident command system and the Michigan Health Alert Network. We look forward to continuing this valuable partnership with community health centers and improving outreach to underserved populations in Michigan.



## Communications

### Public Comment Sought on Reactor Resistance to Aircraft Impact

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to enhance the safety and security of future nuclear power plants. The proposal would require applicants for new reactors to assess the level of built-in protection a particular design has to avoid or mitigate the effects of a large commercial aircraft impact, reducing the need for human intervention to protect public health and safety.



### California Wildfires Promote Technology Use

Retired journalist and mobility expert Jim Forbes is among the quarter-million California residents driven out of their homes by the horrific wildfires. Forbes has taken the opportunity to 'fire blog' from his shelter and discuss via e-mail how his personal technology and the shelter's wireless networks are holding up under the strain. The shelter set up a dedicated computer room with a, b, and g network drives. Many evacuees brought notebook computers with them when they left their homes. The local cell networks were subsumed by traffic early in the day, and the computers allowed evacuees to text and instant messenger friends and loved ones. For more information on wildfire preparedness, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wildfires webpage.

## Surveillance

### MRSA Cases Continue to Increase

The study in the October 17 edition of the *Journal of American Medical Association* establishes the first national baseline by which to assess future trends in invasive MRSA infections. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) caused more than 94,000 life-threatening infections and nearly 19,000 deaths in the United States in 2005. As of October 24, Michigan had 15 confirmed cases of MRSA. For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [MRSA webpage](#).



### Antimicrobial-Resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Findings of a [recent study](#) indicated that, despite increases in incidence of antimicrobial-nonsusceptible invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), overall rates of IPD remained stable during 2001-2006. In addition, persons with



IPD caused by antimicrobial-nonsusceptible *S. pneumoniae* had clinical outcomes comparable to persons with IPD caused by antimicrobial-susceptible serotypes. Although heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) is effective in preventing IPD, these results confirm that antimicrobial resistance among serotypes not covered by PCV7 remains a concern.

### Recent H5N1 Developments

[Several articles](#) published in recent weeks help shed light on the virulence of H5N1 virus, the pathogenesis of severe H5N1 disease in people, and a possible new approach to treatment.

### West Nile Case Confirmed in Kent County

On October 12, the Kent County Health Department confirmed its first case of West Nile Virus (WNV). As of October 8, there have been thirteen confirmed cases of WNV in Michigan, and 2,803 nationwide. Mosquitoes spread this virus. Most of those infected have no symptoms, while 20 percent may develop mild illness. One of 150 will develop severe illness that can be fatal.

## Pandemic Planning

### The Microbiological Threat to the Energy and Financial Sectors

On July 11-12, 2007, executives from seven of the country's leading power and utility companies came together in New York City to participate in the Executive Roundtable Series: Advanced Pandemic Planning for the Energy Sector. Similarly, on August 10, executives from eleven of the country's leading financial services institutions came together in New York City to participate in an Executive Roundtable designed for their sector. Both events focused on sharing what is working in their respective companies, pooling their knowledge about pandemic dilemmas, and to tackle issues not yet resolved. They participated in exercises, confronting issues likely to arise in a real-world pandemic. These papers – from the [Energy Executives' Round Table](#) and the [Financial Executives' Round Table](#) – extract key points and observations, and integrates them to create a guide with the most current thinking on pandemic planning.



## Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers

In order to mitigate the effects of an influenza pandemic on the healthcare community, it is important to identify healthcare providers and recognize the diversity of practice settings. The goal of this document is to help healthcare workers and employers prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The [guidance document](#) is organized into four major sections: clinical background information on influenza, infection control, pandemic influenza preparedness, and OSHA standards of special importance. The document also contains appendices that provide pandemic planners with samples of infection control plans, examples of practical pandemic planning tools and additional technical information

## The Bird Flu/Pandemic Flu Confusion

Peter Sandman, a risk communication consultant, writes an article on the perception of what a pandemic of influenza really is by the public. He says members of the public view a pandemic of influenza as purely a bird flu that will be passed to humans via birds. The [complete article](#) is available online.

## Major Gaps Exist in U.S. Pediatric Pandemic Preparations

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Trust for America's Health issued a new report, *[Pandemic Influenza: Warning, Children At-Risk](#)*, which finds that children and teens between the ages of 0-19 account for nearly 46 percent of all H5N1 "bird" flu deaths. The report also identifies gaps in U.S. preparedness for treating and caring for children during a possible pandemic flu outbreak.

# Regional News

## GCHD Receives PAPR Training

On June 25, a 3M specialist hosted training for the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) on how to properly don and take care of a Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR). PAPRs are motorized systems that use a filter to clean ambient air before it is delivered to the breathing zone of the user. A PAPR system includes a blower, battery, headpiece and a breathing tube. Use of a PAPR is desired for high-risk aerosol-generating procedures. The GCHD has purchased thirty PAPRs to be used by staff who were unable to be fitted with an N-95 or N-100 respirator. These devices may be used during emergency response measures and can easily be used by individuals that have not yet been fit tested for other types of respirators.



## Airport Event Caps Multi-Region Exercise

Hundreds of responders, leaders and volunteers from two planning regions turned a Holland airport and surrounding roads into to massive exercise field in early October, testing mass-casualty response to an airliner crash.

All disciplines participated in a series of orientation and Emergency Operations Center drills that led participants through a progressive process capped by the full-scale events. The October exercise scenario stated that a jet crashed with more than 120 victims, and there was a large debris field. First responders found a (mock) burning school bus next to a barn, dozens of

victims in the debris field, collapsed responders, and a smoking fuselage. On the surface, the exercise might have looked like many other full-scale events. In reality the site, planning, and some response systems actually crossed unique boundaries: the airport is in Holland and its EMS response is overseen by Ottawa County MCA, but the city itself spans two counties (Ottawa and Allegan) and two planning regions (5 and 6).

The progressive nature of the exercise allowed partners from different counties and regions to learn more about communication and response systems to facilitate a joint response. Ottawa and Allegan county emergency managers jointly led the event, supported by staff from health care, public health, Bio-Defense Network regions, volunteer agencies like the Red Cross and RACES, U.S. Coast Guard, fire, law enforcement, airport and other agencies. The Regions 5 and 6 BT Coordinators tested other key, inter-regional systems such as using a D5 laptop with a wireless phone card to connect to EMResource. EMS staff used an R6 Patient Tracking computer to connect with the R6 SQL server and to practice using hand-held computers and triage-tag scanning. In addition, a number of other responding agencies used common 800 MHz talk groups, R6 response supplies, D5 mannequins, command trailers from both regions, and hazardous materials response equipment.

## Other News

### White House May Stop Plan for Anti-Radiation Pills

The White House may scrap a plan that would give anti-radiation pills to millions of people, five years after Congress ordered that the tablets be made available to anyone living within 20 miles of a nuclear reactor. Congress issued the order based on concerns that terrorists could attack a nuclear plant. The government already provided free pills to the 4.7 million people living within 10 miles of a plant, but Congress ordered wider distribution to cover 21.9 million people in 33 states. Although the White House at the time called potassium iodide pills crucial to preventing thyroid cancer in cases of radiation exposure, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) argues against wider distribution of the drug. According to the NRC, the pills may not be the most effective way to prevent cancer and could undermine confidence in U.S. nuclear plants.



*Image: By H. Darr Beiser  
Excerpted from USA Today*

### Low-Level Emergency at Fermi II Nuclear Plant

On October 12, DTE Energy declared a low-level emergency at the Fermi II nuclear plant in Monroe. While performing routine maintenance the previous day, staff at the plant discovered several 1/4-inch drilled holes in steam lines associated with safety valves. It is likely that workers created the holes when they removed insulation from the pipes as part of regular maintenance. A spokesman for the plant stated there was never a public safety concern, and the incident was reported immediately to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the FBI.

### Mexican With TB Crossed U.S. Border 76 Times

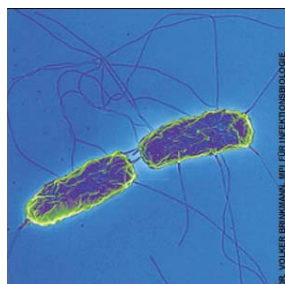
A Mexican national infected with a highly contagious form of tuberculosis crossed the U.S. border 76 times and took multiple domestic flights in the past year, according to Customs and Border Protection interviews and documents obtained by The Washington Times. Health officials warned the

agency on April 16 that the frequent traveler was infected, but it took Homeland Security officials more than six weeks to issue an alert to warn its own border inspectors and a further week to tell its own Transportation Security Administration.

*Excerpted from The Washington Times*

### Global Public Health Preparedness: Is it Possible?

The webcast of "Global Public Health Preparedness: Is It Possible?", originally broadcast on September 11, has been archived and is available for viewing. If you missed the symposium or want to revisit specific presentations, please visit the University of Michigan's [Office of Public Health Practice website](#).



### Drinkable Typhoid Vaccine

Emergent BioSolutions, which has its biodefense operations based in Lansing, finished a phase II clinical study for its single-dose, drinkable typhoid vaccine. In the study, 101 children ages 5 to 14 in Vietnam received the vaccine candidate and 50 children received a placebo. So far, Emergent only has one marketable product, its Lansing-made anthrax vaccine, although work continues on a host of other drugs and vaccines, including the typhoid vaccine.

## Training & Education

### Take ICS300 and ICS400 for Free!

The University of Michigan's Center for Public Health Preparedness is providing scholarships for public health professionals to attend ICS 300 and ICS 400 training sessions offered by the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. Up to 20 spaces in each of 10 course sessions are being made available to allow qualified public health professionals to attend free of charge. Visit the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness ICS 300 and ICS 400 [Scholarship Program webpage](#) for more information.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Oct. 29, 2007 Nov. 19, 2007 8:30am-4:30pm	<b>Applied Incident Command for Public Health</b> This highly interactive <a href="#">course</a> designed to give public health professionals the opportunity to experience the Incident Command System (ICS) in an instructive setting. During the morning, participants will be led through a food-borne illness event from the vantage point of a public health responder. The afternoon will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, the process of an ICS-based response to a public health emergency. There is no fee for this course.	Saginaw Lansing
Oct. 29-31, 2007	<b>End-to-End Preparedness for Pandemic Influenza</b> In its second year, <a href="#">this conference</a> has become a major gathering place where representatives from the nation's public health authorities, the biopharmaceutical industry, contract manufacturing organizations, distribution firms and the first responder community come together explore the opportunities for public-private collaboration.	Washington, DC

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 7 Nov. 8 Nov. 14 Nov. 15	<b>MDCH Immunization Conferences</b> This conference will update health care professionals on immunization issues that affect people of all ages - from infants to the elderly and everyone in-between. Each of these one-day conferences will provide participants with a variety of practice-management tools, techniques, and information that will help assure that all of their patients are fully and appropriately immunized. More information, including registration details, is <a href="#">available online</a> .	East Lansing Troy Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Detroit Ypsilanti
Nov. 6, 2007 Nov. 7 Nov. 8	<b>Mercury for First Responders (and Others)</b> The curriculum includes mercury response - characterization, cleanup and clearance; personal protective equipment; medical aspects - mercury exposure and biological testing; risk communication and information gathering; data interpretation; the roles of other responders. Seating is limited to 30 per session. Please call or email to register, (517) 335-8138, <a href="mailto:boyleb@michigan.gov">boyleb@michigan.gov</a> .	Fire House #1 500 West Front St. Traverse City, MI
Nov. 7-9, 2007	<b>Visit a 2-1-1 Call Center</b> Michigan 2-1-1 Call Centers invite you to visit one of the call centers during one of their scheduled Open Houses. Please see this <a href="#">informational flyer</a> for more information.	Various
Nov. 8, 2007 10-11:15am	<b>Risk Communication &amp; Psycho-Social Issues in Radiation Events</b> Speakers will provide clear guidance for bioterrorism coordinators, clinical staff and administrative personnel to be better prepared to manage psychosocial reactions of communities and individuals and to communicate effectively internally, between response partners and with the public during radiological emergencies.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 355-8150
Nov. 16, 2007	<b>Limited Healthcare Resources: Prioritizing Access in a Community Emergency, Cross-Border Perspectives</b> The full-day program will examine, with audience participation, U.S. and Canadian perspectives on equitable allocation of scarce medical resources. What legal, medical, ethical and political factors come into play as prioritization models for limited distribution are designed and implemented? Registration details and materials will be available early fall 2007. Please contact the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy at (716) 645-2102 to register or for more information.	TBD
Nov. 29, 2007 2-3pm	<b>Cutting-Edge Legal Preparedness for Chronic Disease Prevention</b> <a href="#">This event</a> will feature four cutting-edge New York City innovations in legal preparedness for chronic disease, seen from the perspectives of public health practitioners, policymakers, legal counsel, and affected constituents.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 355-8150
Dec. 6, 2007 1-2:30pm	<b>Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Taking Care of Business</b> This <a href="#">broadcast</a> will focus on the development of these public-private partnerships. Panelists will discuss methods for locating and reaching-out to businesses and identify significant challenges, possible solutions, and opportunities involved in this type of community outreach. In addition, business leaders and public health professionals will share their experiences in forming these partnerships.	OPHP * Library (517) 355-8150

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.



Date/Time	Event	Location
Dec. 13, 2007	<b>Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases</b> This <u>course</u> provides guidelines for vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, case investigation, and outbreak control. Registration will open closer to the course date.	Webcast
Feb. 28-29, 2008 Mar. 5-6, 2008	<b>Basic Public Information Officers' Workshop</b> This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management. More information forthcoming.	Gaylord Lansing
May 19-22, 2008	<b>Effective Managing Transit Emergencies</b> This <u>course</u> will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.	Grand Rapids, MI
Jun. 12, 2008	<b>Behavioral Mental Health Conference</b> Save the Date! More details to follow.	Lansing Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933 T: (517) 483-7400



Photo by Elizabeth Ritchie



Photo by Rita Simpson

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